"HALLOWED BE THY NAME"

Matt. 6:9

Last Sunday morning we endeavored to make it clearly understood how children of God should approach the"Throne of Grace". Excluding themselves from the outside world and from their own minds they enter the conscious presence of the Father in heaven and there wait upon Him in reposeful trust. Nor are we now ready to ask the Lord for our immediate wants, however urgent they may be. Our little selves and desires must remain hidden a while longer, for the name of God, the Father must first be glorified. "Our Father who art in Heaven. Hallowed be Thy Name."

In early days, the Jews gave names which, in themselves meant something. Nearly all the Bible names are meaningful. In order to fit the character or individuality or circumstances, "Saul" was changed to "Paul", "Simon" to "Peter" and likewise with mane others. Nowadays, the name given to the average baby is meaningless. It serves to distinguish the baby from others, only before the eyes of the law and in the estimation of its parents. As the child grows into boyhood and manhood, however, its name is no longer an

three years with adult

empty word but the representative of the man himself, his personality, character, and works. Our silver dollar is not worth one-hundred cents because it is stamped " One Dollar" but because its face value is guaranteed by the United States. Mexican dollars are worth but little over fifty cents.- It is not the stated amount that determines the value of a promisory note, nor the fact that it is properly signed; but the payer's integrity and power to meet his obligation, for all of which the signiture stands, is what gives the note its value.

Shakespeare once asked the question, "What's in a name?" and made the statement that a rose, by any other name, would smell as sweet. True enough, but by changing the name, the thing itself could not be altered one iota. What, then, is in the word "rose"? Why, the rose itself! What is in your name? You and all that we know of you. The good that we speak of you to others is adding so much weight to your good name. But were we to say anything bad about you, or were we to speak slightingly of you to others, we would be lessening the weight of your good name in our own estimation for a certainty, and very likely in

the estimation of those addressed. Since a mans good name is sacred to him, being practically all that he can call his own, and since he and his good name are one and inseparable, how carefully and considerately should we think of him lest our tongues should do him an injury, either by falsely praising him or by speaking ill of him.

While it is true that we can add to or take away from the weight of one's name, no one except its owner can make it. He makes it by that which he is and thinks and does. One who never breaks his word and never appropriates for his own that which does not belong to him establishes for himself a name that stands for honesty and truthfulness. His enemies may lie about him but the confidence of those who know the man remains unshaken, while deep down in the liars' hearts conscience is ever defending that good name. "By their works ye shall know them." We can neither deceive ourselves nor can we, in the long run, deceive others. Let each one of us ask ourself the question,"What's in my name?" I claim to be a Christian. Is my name a synonym for christlikeness? Or does it stand for one who is con-

trolled, not by the will of God nor by a godly love, a godly sympathy, a godly patience and forbearance,and a godlike forgiving spirit,towards all fellows be they friends or enemies,but, on the other hand, does it stand for one who is controlled by his own carnal desires, by his own prejudiced opinions, and by his own selfish motives?

Let each one here this ~~morning~~ evening look to his own name and not bother about his neighbor's. This is for self-examination and not the examination of others.

Now that we are beginning to realize the true significance of a personal name, we are the better prepared to comprehend rightly and reverently the one name above all others, that of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

The third commandment, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who taketh His name in vain.", is broken in a number of ways-- by perjury, by swearing, bydthoughtless exclamations, and by speaking lightly and sneeringly and hatefully of those who worship God. We need not dwell upon the subject of profanity or of perjury for we all realize th

their utter sinfulness. A word or two can well be said, however, about speaking lightly or sneeringly or hatefully of those who are worshipping God. Should someone arise in the midst of our worship this ~~morning~~ evening and begin to make fun of us or express in words his hatred and contempt for what he calls a false worship, wuold we not charge him, among other things, with irreverence and disrespect? Or should we meet with such an one outside of the church and discover that in his heart he thot thus of our church would we not hold him responsible just the same? As a man thinketh in his heart so is he. Let us then apply the same rule to our own conduct. If we demand that all others must respect our worship of Almighty God, then we must grant to them the right to expect of us that we show a similar regard for their worship of the same God. There is only one God, however differentlyman may conceive Him to be and in whatsoever various ways man may worship Him. Wherever we see souls uplifted towards the Deity, tho they be turned godward, while in ignorance and darkness, we should recognize and respect the element of true worship in them.

Let us bear in mind that the Word of God is the light that lighteth every man coming into the world and that He is the life and the light of all men. When you are reading ancient mythology or the history of other religions than yo your own, or when you are thinking about other denominations and ~~isms~~ beliefs than your own, be careful of your attitude and spirit towards them for they are the records of the human race struggling out of its darkness and ignorance along its godward way towards the Light and the Truth which is eternal. The Apostle Paul uttered a great saying that is recorded in Eph. 5:9, " the fruit of the light is in all goodness and righteousness and truth." Wherever you find the slightest trace of goodness and righteousness and truth you amy rest assured that there the Spirit of God has been at work in the soul of man. Take heed lest you hold another's religion in contempt for in so doing you yourself become guilty of contempt. Religion in its essentiality is not a matter of opinion nor of creed but is the soul of man in the life and Spirit of God.

"Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name.", is very often taken to mean that we children of the Lord are to glorify the name of God. "Hallowed be thy name" expresses an earnest desire that our Father in heaven be glorified, not by us but by God Himself. In the Old Testament it is written, "The Holy One of Israel"; in the New testament it is"God the Father". Jesus Christ reveals to us the glory of God in the loving and personal name of "Father". Can man who has so profaned the Holy Name add one mite to the glory of God? No, he cannot! "I, saith the Lord,', will hallow my great name which ye have profaned". When we pray, "Hallowed be Thy name", we ask <u>God</u> to purify our hearts and strengthen our understanding that we may experience more deeply the quickening influence of <u>His</u> Holy Spirit and comprelend more fully His infinite Glo Glory and divine Majesty as our Heavenly Father. We pray thus, not for ourselves only, but in behalf of God's children the world over.

Our Father, make known unto us thy goodness, thy tender mercy, and thy love. Our blessed Savior, thou who abidest in us and we in thee, teach us to know God. Holy Spirit, renew our hearts and minds and lead us to see the glory of our Father in Heaven, as it is revealed in all created things and in all creatures, including ourselves. May the ground upon which we walk; the grasses and trees and fl flowers that give beauty and charm to the landscape about us; and may the hills and mountains with their rocks and ri rills and babbling brooks and singing birds all, all declare unto us, "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty! All thy works shall praise thy Name in earth and sky and sea; Holy, Holy, Holy, Merciful and Mighty! God in three Persons, Blessed Trinity."

About all this sin-sick world needs is just to know God. Oh, if men only knew Him to be their Father, they cou could not help but love Him and worship Him and serve Him with loyal hearts and consecrated lives hallowed by the Holy Spirit! They know about God, yes; and some men think that they know <u>all</u> about God, with the result that they ~~speak His name~~

speak His namewith familiarity and contempt, and go so far as to declare that there is no God. First, we must learn to know Him, for as scientific investigators and unravelers of spiritual truth, unless ~~we are~~ guided aright by the Spirt of Truth,we are apt to be lost in a maze of misconceptions and vague fancies.

If we are in earnest when we ask God to make Himself known to men, we at once throw our every effort into the petition and by our prayers, our convictions, and our very lives,consecrated and sanctified in the spirit of the Lord, we cause men to become acquainted with the Living Word and the hallowed name of our Father in heaven. We honor the Su Supreme Being by spreading the Gospel thruout all lands and by telling men everywhere of our blessed experiences. We best glorify God's name by living the Christ-life from day to day. This is the most convincing testimony we can give to the world. If our neighbors and friends can learn something more about God and His goodness from our daily living and our daily doing, they, too, will be more anxious to know their Father in heaven.

You all have witnessed the total eclipse of the moon. As the earth came between the sun and the moon, the latter could receive no light from the former and hence had none to reflect to the earth. Every soul is created in the image of God. When the image does not reflect the glory of God, it is because earthly pleasures and a perverted will stand between the man's Creator and his own soul. Thus it is that the spiritual nature of man's being is totally eclipsed--shut off entirely from the warmth of the infinite Father-love and from the Light of Eternal Truth. What a sad picture indeed--man standing between his better self and God, with back turned against his heavenly Father, groping his way in utter darkness in a vain attempt to find a glimmer of light in the pleasures of sin, which, phantom-like, lure him on to his death. Sadder still, to see men of intelligence and of great capabilities in the same position, vainly trying to dispel the darkness with candles of their own understanding. "If the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!" But saddest of all to me, is the picture of a man who has been spiritually quickened but who has allowed himself to ~~become hopelessly~~ remain

the slave of his and
~~in his~~ own set opinions, ~~blind~~ prejudices, ~~and selfish motives~~, for under these, as under a bushel, he hides the light which otherwise would be a guide-lamp pointing out the Way to eternal Life. Oh, sinful ~~foolish~~ man, how long will it be before you step out of your own way? Oh intelligent man, so vain in your own conceits and so utterly blind in your own knowledge, how long will it be before you let God's great Light of eternal Truth illumine your way to everlasting Life?

In Isaiah it is written, "Who is among you that feareth the Lord, that obeyeth the voice of His servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? "let him trust in the name of the Lord and stay himself upon his God." Let us then trust in the name of the Lord, in the name of "Our Father" and in the name of Jesus "Our Savior", in which Name we live and move and have our being.

"Precious Name, O how sweet!
Hope of earth and joy of Heaven."